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United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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President Renews Nominations of Goodwin Liu and Edward M. Chen

SAN FRANCISCO – President Obama has renominated law professor Goodwin Liu to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and federal Magistrate Judge Edward M. Chen to a district judgeship on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. The White House announced the nominations September 13.

Professor Liu is an associate dean of the University of California at Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall). He was nominated to fill a new judgeship authorized to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals under Public Law 110-177, which became effective January 21, 2009. He was first nominated by President Obama on February 24, 2010, but the nomination was not acted upon by the Senate during the session. Under Senate rules, nominations not acted upon during the session are returned to the president and cannot be considered unless made again by the president.

Prof. Liu has been a member of the Berkeley law faculty since 2003. Prior to that, he was an appellate litigator at the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers in Washington, D.C. He served as a special assistant to the deputy secretary, U.S. Department of Education, and as a senior program officer for higher education, Corporation for National Service, AmeriCorps.

Prof. Liu received his B.S. from Stanford University in 1991; his M.A. from Oxford University in 1993; and his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1998. He clerked for Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court of the United States and for Circuit Judge David Tatel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit.

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Judge Chen was first nominated to fill a judgeship vacant since April 4, 2008, when U.S. District Judge Martin J. Jenkins resigned to accept appointment to the California Courts of Appeal. Judge Chen was first nominated by President Obama on August 6, 2009, but the nomination was not acted upon by the Senate during the session.

Judge Chen has served as a magistrate judge of the Northern District of California in San Francisco since 2001 and was reappointed by judges of that court to a second eight-year term in 2009. Prior to coming onto the federal bench, he worked as a staff attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, Northern California chapter, from 1985 to 2001, and as an associate at the San Francisco firm of Coblentz, Cahen, McCabe & Breyer from 1982 to 1985.

Judge Chen received his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Berkeley in 1975, and his J.D. from Boalt Hall School of Law in 1979. After law school, he served judicial clerkships for U.S. District Judge Charles B. Renfrew of the Northern District of California, and U.S. Circuit Judge James R. Browning of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals reported 12,223 appeals filed in 2009. The Ninth Circuit is authorized 29 judgeships, four of which are currently vacant.

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California received 7,341 case filings in 2009 and is authorized 14 judgeships, two of which are currently vacant.

Judges of the federal appellate courts and federal district courts, appointed under Article III of the Constitution are nominated by the president, confirmed by the Senate and serve lifetime appointments upon good behavior. The current annual salary of a circuit judge is \$184,500 and \$174,000 for a district judge.

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